

In the specification:

On page 1, please amend the second paragraph as follows:

The term “colloid” means a state in which fine particles (cluster particles) of a metal, ceramic, or the like having a size 1 to 100 nm that are insoluble in a solvent are dispersed or suspended in the solvent. Generally known are colloidal solutions in which liquid solvents are used. In recent years, considerations have been made to use colloids for the production of materials in various fields, such as catalysts or optical, electric or magnetic materials. One of the methods for using a colloid for material production includes, for example, catalyst production where a colloidal solution is adsorbed by an ~~adsorbate~~ adsorbent (a carrier). Unlike conventional methods in which an aqueous solution or a bulk material is used, the above method offers an advantage that fine metal particles constituting cluster particles can be dispersed directly and highly on the target ~~adsorbate~~ adsorbent (preparation of catalysts using a colloidal solution is disclosed in prior arts, for example, in Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open Nos. 2000-279818 and 2000-279824).

On page 13, please amend the first paragraph as follows:

Table 2 shows results of the water-solubility examination made for the metal colloids containing PEI, as a protective agent, while varying the kind of the auxiliary metal used. It is seen from Table 2 that the metal colloids prepared in this embodiment formed no precipitate and exhibited good water-solubility when they contained 10 mg or less of auxiliary metal ions, regardless of the kind of the auxiliary metal ion used.